THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Seventh Five Year Plan did not make any promise for achieving zero rate of inflation. However, the price rise during the first three years of the Seventh Five Year Plan is much less than the rise during the three year periods of 1979—82 or 1972—75 as may be seen from the following table:—

| Year | WPI (1970-71=100) (Percentage change) | CPI (1960=100) (Percentage change) |
|---|---|---|
| 1972-73 | 12.3 | 11.3 |
| 1973-74 | 30.0 | 27.3 |
| 1974-75 | 10.1 | 16.7 |
| 1979-80 | 21.4 | 12.3 |
| 1980-81 | 16.7 | 12.6 |
| 1981-82 | 2.4 | 8.8 |
| 1985-86 | 3.8 | 8.9 |
| 1986-87 | 5.3 | 7.5 |
| 1987-88 | 10.6 | 9.8 |

(b) The main reason for the notable increase in prices during the period was the severe drought of 1987-88 resulting in short-fall in production of agricultural and agro based commodities.

(c) The specific measures taken by the Government to keep the price rise under check include enhanced distribution of foodgrains through Public Distribution System (PDS), strengthening of the PDS with the opening of additional outlets; import of essential commodities like pulses, edible oils and sugar; strict economy in Government expenditure; mopping up of excess liquidity in the economy and intensive action against hoarders and profiteers.

**Identity Cards Issued in Border Districts of Western India along Indo-Pak Border**

861. SHRI B. L. PANWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) in how many border districts of Western India bordering Pakistan, identity cards have been issued to the inhabitants and how many Tehsils have been covered so far; and

(b) how many Tehsils remain to be covered and by when this work will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The Government have approved the Pilot Scheme for issue of Identity Cards in Poogal, Nachna, Karanpur and Chauhatan Tehsils of Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Ganganagar and Barmer districts respectively in Rajasthan and Bhuj Taluka in Gujarat. The Government of Punjab are also working out schemes for issue of Identity Cards in border areas. Based on the results of this pilot scheme, the scheme for issue of Identity Cards may be extended to other border districts along the Western border.

**Decline in Export of Tea to London**

862. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the traditional market for Indian tea in London is slowly slipping out of India's hands with Kenya and Sri Lanka emerging as two strong competitors and what are the sale figures during each of the last three years and so for during the current year of tea of the three countries in the London market;

(b) the quality, price and packing charges of Indian tea as compared with the above two countries in the London tea market; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to boost India's tea sales and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Despite severe competition from Sri Lanka and Kenya, India has been able to able to maintain its market share in the United Kingdom.

Figures of Imports of tea into U.K. from India, Sri Lanka & Kenya during 1985 & 1986 are indicated below. Published figures of import into U.K. from Sri Lanka & Kenya for the year 1987 are not yet a available.

*(Value in Tausand US Dollar)*

| Country | 1985 | 1986 |
|---|---|---|
| India . . | 61,599 | 55,666 |
| Sri Lanka . | 30,260 | 28,541 |
| Kenya . . | 151.403 | 129,355 |

(b) The United Kingdom generally imports superior grade of tea from India. Price realisation of Indian tea in the U.K. market is generally higher than that of tea from Sri Lanka & Kenya.

(c) A number of steps have been initiated for enhancing exports of Indian teas and value added teas which include the following:

(1) Tea Board have been undertaking generic and uninational promotional campaign in different countries for promotion of export of tea.

(2) Excise duty rebate on export of tea.

(3) Provision of 10 per cent of FOB realisation for advertising and promotion by individual companies abroad.

(4) Sanction of scheme under the Brand Promotion Fund and under Warehousing Subsidy Scheme.

(5) A Committee to formulate long-term strategy and plan for tea has been constituted.

(6) A National Committee on Tea Research has been constituted.

(7) A Rs. 10 crores Corpus of tea Research has been initiated.

(8) Leading Tea Exporters have been asked to draw up their export plan as a part of their corporate plan for the next 5 years.

(9) Increase in the rate of REP licence for packet tea, tea bags and instant tea with effect from 1-4-88.

(10) REP at the rate of 4% of the FOB value of bulk tea exported with effect from 1-5-88.

(11) A special campaign has been launched to promote Darjeeling logo in the UK market.

As a result of the above measures, India's total exports of tea during 1987-88 registered an increase of 7.53 M. kgs. in quantity and Rs. 6.82 crores in terms of value.

**Bank Frauds**

863. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of fraud and corruption are on the increase in the nationalised banks; if so, what is the number of cases of fraud involving a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs and above detected during the last one year;

(b) what are the names and designations of bank officials involved in such cases; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to check such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Information in respect of